

Found by Mr. George N. Rohwer at station No. 14, Miocene shales of Florissant, Colorado. This may not be a *Phalaris*, but it is at least suggestive of that genus. The specific name is a fanciful one, given in allusion to the parallel straight lines.

SHORTER NOTES

THE GENUS MALPIGHIA IN JAMAICA.—Heretofore we have known five species of *Malpighia* from Jamaica, West Indies, together with the apparently trustworthy report of a sixth one, namely *Malpighia incana* Mill. The species positively known to occur on the island, and also recently collected there, are *Malpighia glabra* L., *M. puniceifolia* L., *M. fucata* Ker., *M. urens* L., and *M. biflora* Poir. Jamaica is the type locality for both *Malpighia glabra* L. and *M. urens* L. Recently specimens of an additional species have come to hand. It may be described as follows:

Malpighia Harrisii Small, sp. nov. A slender shrub commonly about 3.5 m. tall, with sparingly pubescent twigs: leaves glabrous, at least ultimately so, above the petiole; blades oval, oblong, or ovate, 6–12 cm. long, obtuse to acute, or individually notched at the apex, entire, bright-green above, paler-green beneath, rounded at the base, short (5–8 mm.) -petioled: cymes sessile, many-flowered, the branches sparingly pubescent, at least when young: calyx with 6 glands; sepals oblong or ovate-oblong, about 3 mm. long, obtuse, twice as long as the glands or less: corolla rose-color, about 2.5 cm. wide, the larger petals 12–13 mm. long: androecium with 2 very large filaments: gynoecium with unequal styles, the 2 posterior ones much stouter and longer than the anterior one: drupes not seen.

In Peckham Woods, Upper Clarendon, Jamaica, collected by William Harris, September 27, 1912, III 89.

This species appears to be most closely related to *Malpighia urens*. It differs from the latter species in the glabrous, larger, broader, and longer-petioled leaf-blades, and in the larger corollas.

J. K. SMALL

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE LINNEAN HERBARIUM. Dr. B. Daydon Jackson writes me (Jan. 2, 1913) that No. "57 *Cocci-*

ferus" is represented in the Linnean Herbarium, in which I failed to find it (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 39: 201. 1912). In his recent Index to the Linnean Herbarium (Suppl. Proc. Soc. 96. 1912) he records the species *Lichen cocciferus* L. as represented by a type specimen.

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A PLANT NEW TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND THE LOCAL FLORA RANGE.—It is here worthy of record that Miss F. A. Mulford collected in July, 1903, at Arkville, Delaware Co., N. Y., specimens of the musk-root *Adoxa Moschatellina* L. This is the first record of this plant's occurrence either in New York State or the local flora range. The nearest previous stations for this species are in Arctic America and Iowa. The discovery of this rare plant at an elevation of about 1,400 ft. in the Catskills is a noteworthy addition to the list of local flora plants. Specimens of this plant from Arkville are in the herbarium of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and in Miss Mulford's herbarium.

NORMAN TAYLOR

AN INVESTIGATION OF "LACINIARIA SCARIOSA."—As already known at several botanical institutions, the writer has been engaged for many years, as time permitted, in the elaboration of the laciniarias of the *scariosa* group. A large amount of material has been assembled at the National Herbarium by acquisition and loan, the writer himself having collected over six hundred specimens. In all, not less than seventeen hundred specimens have been examined. This material represents beyond all controversy an immense number of species and these, upon due comparison, are seen to fall into natural classes.

It will easily be understood that no superficial study based on local and scattering specimens can secure a scientific disposition of these plants, and the disjointed publication of names, the reference of which can only be known by consulting the type material, adds complication to an already sufficiently complicated matter. I therefore bespeak the patience of the botanical public

till I shall be able to complete an exhibition of the group, now far advanced, which will not, indeed, be exhaustive, but will be so thorough as to afford a solid foundation for future work. Additional specimens will be welcome even if they lengthen the task, but increase of material in some cases eases the work rather than adds to it.

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REVIEWS

THREE PUBLICATIONS ON HEREDITY

Genetics*

This volume aims to introduce the average reader to the various problems in the study of heredity. The chapter headings are as follows: I. Introduction; II. The Carriers of the Heritage; III. Variation; IV. Mutation; V. The Inheritance of Acquired Characters; VI. The Pure Line; VII. Segregation and Dominance; VIII. Reversion to Old Types and the Making of New Ones; IX. Blending Inheritance; X. The Determination of Sex; XI. The Application to Man; and XII. Human Conservation.

It is a difficult task to summarize for the ordinary reader the various lines of thought and investigation covered by these topics. Too often a popular treatise on a scientific subject falls into the error of presenting as clear cut facts, results and conclusions not fully established. The general reader is not likely to consider these with a critical mind and too often accepts mere views and partly established facts as fundamental principles. There is, in other words, an air of finality that does not stimulate the best thought in the mind of the reader. This volume on genetics is not entirely free from this defect. In general, however, the author has made clear statements of the problems under consideration, of the evidence at hand bearing on them, and of the field for future investigation. In the chapters on Variation, Mutation, Inheritance of Acquired Characters, The Pure Line and Human Conservation, the author is at his best, at least in this respect.

* By Herbert Eugene Walter, assistant professor of biology at Brown University. Pages i-xiv + 1-272. [Illust.] Published February, 1913, by The Macmillan Company. Price \$1.50 net.